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The Fraternity of the Blue Uniform: Admiral Richard G. Colbert, U.S. Navy and Allied Naval Cooperation

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The book suffers only from the unavoidable problem of having gone to press before the final act in the process of achieving independence had played out. The discussion ends with a postscript appended in the wake of Gorbachev's spasmodic attempt in January 1991 to restore by force central authority and control in the Baltics. Information available after this period could have fleshed out the means by which "Green" politics provided a vital basis for the rebirth of Baltic nationalism, the different approaches to the minority rights issue, the disruption of the Baltic economies through withholding of energy resources and rerouting of transit trade, and the dramatic erosion of Soviet-CIS military power in the region. Despite these subsequent developments, the authors managed to forecast trends with a high degree of success.

Hidden and Salmon have provided a foundation for addressing the critical question—as important now as in the past—of what role the Baltic states will play in a changing environment: forward outpost of German influence and dominance, Russia's window on the West, a reconstituted buffer zone, or mediator and bridge between East and West. They remind us of the potential to overlook, while fixating on developments in the CIS, the distinctive role of the Baltic states. As a guide to the relevant issues, this concise and authoritative synthesis is strongly recommended.

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Sokolsky, Joel, J. *The Fraternity of the Blue Uniform: Admiral Richard G. Colbert, U.S. Navy and Allied Naval Cooperation*. Newport, R.I.: Naval War College Press, 1991. 77pp. \$7.50 (available from Naval War College Foundation Gift Shop, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I. 02841-1207)

This eighth volume in the Naval War College Historical Monograph Series covers the career of Richard Geary Colbert, the thirty-first president of the College. The author has traced and ably discussed Colbert's assignments from 1948 to 1973 that were directly concerned with international affairs.

Beginning with the assignment in 1948 as flag lieutenant and aide to Admiral Richard Connelly, commander in chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, each tour described contributed to Colbert's understanding of United States maritime strategy and the need for closer cooperation with allied and other free-world navies. During his subsequent tours of duty in the Navy's "state department" (the international affairs division of Naval Operations (Op-35)), Colbert worked on a variety of problems under the direction of Rear Admiral Bernard Austin, and then indirectly for Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke.

In 1956, the recently promoted Captain Colbert was a student in "Naval Warfare 1" at the Naval War College, and had been selected to remain for the next academic year as a student in "Naval Warfare 2." Earlier, while in Washington, Colbert had

written a brief staff study recommending a course for international students at the Naval War College. Colbert undertook to organize, guide, and instruct a most diverse group of officers. His years in Newport had provided him with an excellent background for his presidency in 1968 as a relatively junior rear admiral, at the age of fifty-three.

Because of his background in international affairs and maritime strategy, Colbert was promoted to admiral in 1972 and was assigned as Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe. He had only begun to tackle the various problems in the Mediterranean when illness forced him into retirement.

Joel Sokolsky, a senior fellow at the Queen's Centre for International Relations in Canada and a professor of political science at the Royal Military College, has concentrated in this work on the last twenty-five years of Admiral Colbert's life.

However, omitted by the author are Colbert's tours of sea duty during the Cold War, such as his time as executive officer of the cruiser *Albany*; as commanding officer of the storeship *Altair*; and commanding officer of the guided missile cruiser *Boston*. Most of these tours were spent in the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean; also, in 1951 while in Op-35, Colbert accompanied Admiral Forrest Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations, during negotiations with General Franco for Spanish bases. His first-hand knowledge of these negotiations and his international exercises with the Sixth Fleet during his command tours gave him experience in combined naval operations.

Joel Sokolsky has put together a worthwhile and useful addition to naval history in this account of a twentieth-century senior officer working steadily to make stronger the fraternity of the blue uniform.

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Cogar, William B. *Dictionary of Admirals of the U.S. Navy, 1901-1918*. Vol. II. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1991. 319pp. (No price given)

Just two years ago, the Naval Institute Press published the first volume of this valuable reference work. (Reviewed in *Naval War College Review*, Spring 1992.) Identical in format to its predecessor, this new volume is an illustrated, alphabetical listing of the 330 American naval officers who reached flag rank during the first eighteen years of this century. It covers less than half as many years as volume one but is one hundred pages longer, adding 120 more admirals in this shorter period.

Wherever possible, Cogar presents a photograph of the individual, along with a brief note about his parents, a chronology of the officer's service appointments and highlights of his career, the present location of his personal papers, a bibliography of published writings, and a list of main writings about him. Thus, one has a reference that can serve a variety of research needs.